

**REVISED CHAPTER PROPOSED BY
THE BUREAU OF THE AQUATIC ANIMALS COMMISSION**

CHAPTER X . X . X .

INFECTION WITH MARTEILIA REFRINGENS

Article X.X.X.1.

For the purposes of this *Aquatic Code*, infection with *Marteilia refringens* means infection only with *Marteilia refringens*.

Methods for surveillance, diagnosis and confirmatory identification are provided in the *Aquatic Manual*.

Article X.X.X.2.

Susceptible species

For the purposes of this *Aquatic Code*, *susceptible species* for infection with *Marteilia refringens* are: *Ostrea* species, in particular the European Flat Oyster (*Ostrea edulis*), Australian Mud Oyster (*Ostrea angasi*), Argentinean Oyster (*Ostrea puelchana*) and Chilean Flat Oyster (*Ostrea chilensis*), Blue Mussel (*Mytilus edulis*) and Mediterranean Mussel (*M. galloprovincialis*).

Infection with *Marteilia refringens* can also cause *subclinical* infection in these species.

Suspect cases, as defined in the *Aquatic Manual*, of infection with *Marteilia refringens* should be referred immediately to the appropriate OIE Reference Laboratory, whether or not clinical signs are associated with the findings.

Article X.X.X.3.

Commodities

- 1) When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities*, *Competent Authorities* should not require any *Marteilia refringens* related conditions, regardless of the *Marteilia refringens* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:
 - a) gametes, eggs and larvae of molluscs;
 - b) processed non-viable molluscs (cooked, canned, smoked);
 - c) fresh non-viable half-shell oysters.
- 2) When authorising import or transit of the following *commodities* of a species listed in Article X.X.X.2., *Competent Authorities* should require the conditions prescribed in Articles X.X.X.7. to X.X.X.11. of this Chapter, relevant to the *Marteilia refringens* status of the *exporting country, zone or compartment*:

- a) *aquatic animals*;
- b) *aquatic animal products*.

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- 3) When considering the import or transit of a *commodity* not listed above from an *exporting country*, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free of *Marteilia refringens*, *Competent Authorities* of the *importing country* should conduct an analysis of the risk of introduction, establishment and spread of *Marteilia refringens*, and the potential consequences, associated with importation of the *commodity*, prior to a decision. The outcome of this assessment should be made available to the *exporting country*.

Article X.X.X.4.

***Marteilia refringens* free country**

A country may declare itself free from *Marteilia refringens* if it meets the conditions in point 1) or 2) or 3) below.

If a country shares a water resource with one or more other countries, it can only declare itself a *Marteilia refringens* free country if all the areas covered by the shared water resource are declared *Marteilia refringens* free zones (see Article X.X.X.5.).

- 1) A country where none of the species listed in Article X.X.X.2. is present may declare itself free from *Marteilia refringens* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the country for at least the past 3 years and infection is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

- 2) A country where the species listed in Article X.X.X.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may declare itself free from *Marteilia refringens* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the country for at least the past 3 years and infection is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

- 3) A country where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may declare itself free from *Marteilia refringens* when:
 - a) it meets *basic biosecurity conditions* for at least the past 3 years; and
 - b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 3 years.

Article X.X.X.5.

***Marteilia refringens* free zone or free compartment**

A *zone* or *compartment* free from *Marteilia refringens* may be established within the *territory* of one or more countries of infected or unknown status for infection with *Marteilia refringens* and declared free

by the *Competent Authority(ies)* of the country(ies) concerned, if the *zone* or *compartment* meets the conditions referred to in point 1) or 2) or 3) below.

If a *zone* or *compartment* extends over more than one country, it can only be declared a *Marteilia refringens* free *zone* or *compartment* if the conditions outlined below apply to all areas of the *zone* or *compartment*.

- 1) In a country of unknown status for *Marteilia refringens*, a *zone* or *compartment* where none of the species listed in Article X.X.X.2. is present may declare itself free from *Marteilia refringens* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 3 years and infection is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

- 2) In a country of unknown status for *Marteilia refringens*, a *zone* or *compartment* where the species listed in Article X.X.X.2. are present but there has never been any observed occurrence of the disease for at least the past 10 years despite conditions – in all areas where the species are present – that are conducive to its clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may declare itself free from *Marteilia refringens* when *basic biosecurity conditions* have been in place continuously in the *zone* or *compartment* for at least the past 3 years and infection is not known to be established in wild populations.

OR

- 3) A *zone* or *compartment* where the last known clinical occurrence was within the past 10 years or where the infection status prior to *targeted surveillance* was unknown, for example because of the absence of conditions conducive to clinical expression, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, may declare itself free from *Marteilia refringens* when:

- a) it meets *basic biosecurity conditions* for at least the past 3 years; and
- b) *targeted surveillance* as described in Chapters 1.1.4. and X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual* has been in place for at least the past 3 years.

Article X.X.X.6.

Maintenance of free status

A country or *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *Marteilia refringens* following the provisions of points 1) or 2) of Articles X.X.X.4. or X.X.X.5., respectively, may maintain its status as *Marteilia refringens* free provided that *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

A country or *zone* or *compartment* that is declared free from *Marteilia refringens* following the provisions of point 3) of Articles X.X.X.4. or X.X.X.5., respectively, may discontinue *targeted surveillance* and maintain its status as *Marteilia refringens* free provided that conditions that are conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Marteilia refringens*, as described in Chapter X.X.X. of the *Aquatic Manual*, exist and *basic biosecurity conditions* are continuously maintained.

However, for declared free *zones* or *compartment* in infected countries and in all cases where conditions are not conducive to clinical expression of infection with *Marteilia refringens*, *targeted surveillance* needs to be continued at a level determined by the *Competent Authority* on the basis of the likelihood of reinfection.

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Article X.X.X.7.

Importation of live animals from a country, zone or compartment declared free from *Marteilia refringens*

When importing live *aquatic animals* of the species listed in Article X.X.X.2., other than *commodities* listed in point 1) of Article X.X.X.3., from a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Marteilia refringens*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This *certificate* must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles X.X.X.4. or X.X.X.5. (as applicable), whether the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Marteilia refringens*.

The certificate shall be in accordance with Model Certificate No. [X] given in Part 6 of this *Aquatic Code*.

Article X.X.X.8.

Importation of live animals for aquaculture activities from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Marteilia refringens*

When importing *aquatic animals* of the species listed in Article X.X.X.2. for *aquaculture activities*, other than those *commodities* listed in point 1) of Article X.X.X.3., from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Marteilia refringens*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that:

- 1) the consignment be delivered directly into and held in approved secure rearing facilities;
- 2) the imported *aquatic animals* and their first generation progeny be continuously isolated from the local environment; and
- 3) all effluent and waste material be treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Marteilia refringens*.

Article X.X.X.9.

Importation of live animals for processing and/or human consumption from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Marteilia refringens*

When importing *aquatic animals* of the species listed in Article X.X.X.2. for processing and/or human consumption, other than those live *commodities* listed in point 1) of Article X.X.X.3., from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Marteilia refringens*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that:

- 1) the consignment be delivered directly to and held in approved secure holding facilities for a short period before processing and/or consumption; and
- 2) all effluent and waste material be treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Marteilia refringens*.

Article X.X.X.10.

Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment free from *Marteilia refringens*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the *species* listed in Article X.X.X.2., other than *commodities* listed in point 1) of Article X.X.X.3., from a country, *zone* or *compartment* free from *Marteilia refringens*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that the consignment be accompanied by an *international aquatic animal health certificate* issued by the *Competent Authority* of the *exporting country* or a *certifying official* approved by the *importing country*.

This *certificate* must certify, on the basis of the procedures described in Articles X.X.X.4. or X.X.X.5. (as applicable), whether or not the place of production of the consignment is a country, *zone* or *compartment* declared free from *Marteilia refringens*.

The *certificate* shall be in accordance with Model Certificate No. [X] given in Part 6 of this *Aquatic Code*.

Article X.X.X.11.

Importation of products from a country, zone or compartment not declared free from *Marteilia refringens*

When importing *aquatic animal products* of the *species* listed in Article X.X.X.2., other than those *commodities* listed in point 1) of Article X.X.X.3., from a country, *zone* or *compartment* not declared free from *Marteilia refringens*, the *Competent Authority* of the *importing country* should require that:

- 1) the consignment be delivered directly to and held in approved secure storage facilities, and be processed only in approved processing plants, and
 - 2) all effluent and waste material be treated in a manner that ensures inactivation of *Marteilia refringens*.
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